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**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for evaluating the ability of an agent to inhibit tumor cell spreading which comprises:

- (a) admixing with cell culture media an effective amount of an agent known to inhibit the interaction between a RAGE (SEQ. ID. NO:1) on a tumor cell and a matrix coated with an extracellular matrix molecule selected from the group consisting of ~~an amphotericin~~, a cadherin, an integrin and a hyaluronic acid, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of a peptide, a peptidomimetic, a nucleic acid, a synthetic organic molecule, an inorganic molecule, a carbohydrate, a lipid, and a fragment of an antibody;
- (b) contacting the tumor cell in cell culture with media from step (a);
- (c) determining the amount of spreading of the tumor cell in the cell culture; and
- (d) comparing the amount of spreading of the tumor cell

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determined in step (c) with the amount determined in the absence of the agent, thus evaluating the ability of the agent to inhibit tumor cell spreading.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the tumor cell is a cell from a subject.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the subject is a human, a mouse, a rat, a dog or a non-human primate.

21-34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the integrin is an  $\alpha V\beta V$  integrin, an  $\alpha V\beta III$  integrin, or an  $\alpha I\beta II$  integrin.

36-40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the extracellular matrix molecule is a cadherin.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the extracellular matrix molecule is an integrin.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the extracellular matrix molecule is a hyaluronic acid.